

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A video-information encoding apparatus for encoding a video signal, comprising:

first means for applying a predetermined transformation to the video signal to generate a transformed video signal;

second means for applying an arithmetic coding to the transformed video signal; and

means for counting a number of pieces of input data and output data in/from said second means;

in a case in which the counted number of pieces of the input data or the output data exceeds a preset threshold value in a prescribed unit of encoding, the data is not taken as data to be encoded, the means for counting resets the counted number of pieces to zero, and an encoding process differing from that applied by said first means is applied to the video signal.

Claim 2 (Original): The video-information encoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encoding process differing from that applied by said first means applies a different encoding parameter to the video signal in the first means.

Claim 3 (Original): The video-information encoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encoding process differing from that applied by said first means is an uncompress process to the video signal in the first means.

Claim 4 (Original): The video-information encoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said prescribed unit of encoding is a macroblock.

Claim 5 (Original): The video-information encoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said prescribed unit of encoding is a slice.

Claims 6-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A video-information encoding method for encoding a video signal, comprising:

applying a predetermined transformation using a processor to the video signal to generate a transformed video signal;

applying an arithmetic coding to the transformed video signal; and

counting a number of pieces of input data and output data in/from said second coding;

in a case in which the counted number of pieces of the input data or the output data exceeds a preset threshold value in a prescribed unit of encoding, the data is not taken as data to be encoded, the counted number of pieces is reset to zero, and an encoding process differing from said predetermined transformation is applied to the video signal.

Claims 11-21 (Canceled).